

Arms Loans Per Bill on Export-Import Bank

By the Associated Press

Legislation affecting the Export-Import Bank is pinned down in a crossfire over \$2 billion in unpublicized loans for arms purchases by other countries.

Some members of Congress apparently have known for a long time about the government bank's role—greatly expanded in the last two years—as credit department for arms bought by countries approved by the Defense Department. But general disclosure in the last two weeks produced shock waves.

Joined by Democrats

Thirteen Republican members of the House Banking Committee

demanded yesterday that the committee recall a bill it approved to extend the bank's life 5 years and increase its operating authority by \$4.5 billion.

Several Democratic members of the committee, enough perhaps to give the dissenters a majority, have expressed similar sentiments. The administration sought the bill.

The Republicans said they had been given no inkling of the arms financing and complained of a "crisis in confidence."

Chairman Wright Patman, D-Tex., hit hard at the Republican position yesterday as giving "great comfort to our Communist enemies."

He said the minority is trying to "gain political advantage out

of a critical world situation" and is "inadvertently performing great public relations work for the Soviet Union and Red China." These countries, Patman said, are extensively shipping arms to their allies without even requiring loans.

Bill Is Held Back

However, Patman yesterday held the bill back from the House Rules Committee, which was ready to consider clearing it for House action.

Patman told newsmen he does not favor the Republican plan to call the measure back for possible amendment after a thorough review of the arms financing situation. The chairman said he was inclined to wait

until the Senate passes its version of the legislation and work on that.

But the companion bill in the Senate is in much the same position as the House version. It has been approved by the Banking Committee but leaders have delayed putting it on the Senate calendar because Sen. Allen J. Ellender, D-La., announced that he would offer an amendment barring financing of arms sales.